



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

REVISED
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2691

refugee resettlement; procedures; audit

Purpose

Requires the Auditor General to conduct a special audit of the refugee resettlement process in Arizona.

Background

Current law requires the Auditor General to perform special research requests, special audits and related assignments as designated by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC), and to conduct performance audits, special audits, special research requests and investigations of any state agency, whether created by the constitution or otherwise, as may be requested by JLAC. The Auditor General is also required to perform special audits designated pursuant to law upon determination that there are adequate monies appropriated in order for him or her to complete the task.

If the Auditor General determines that the appropriated monies are inadequate to complete the special audit, then he or she is required to notify JLAC of the fact. Upon receiving JLAC approval, the Auditor General is permitted to charge a reasonable fee for the cost of performing audits or providing accounting services for auditing federal funds, special audits or special services requested by political subdivisions of the state. Monies collected must be deposited in the Audit Services Revolving Fund (A.R.S. § 41-1279.03).

The federal refugee resettlement program is jointly administered by the United States Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State (DOS) and Health and Human Services (HHS) pursuant to the federal Refugee Act of 1980. DHS is responsible for conducting individual interviews and clearances as well as making final determinations regarding admission of refugees to the United States. DOS coordinates admissions and allocations of refugees to specific cities and resettlement agencies, including working with states, resettlement agencies and affiliated entities to ensure that refugees have access to housing and other resources upon arrival at their destination. HHS provides short-term cash and medical assistance along with case management services, English as a Foreign Language classes and job readiness and employment services in order to ensure the successful transition of new arrivals to life in the United States.

According to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the expected cost associated with this legislation is \$54,000 based on an estimate by the Auditor General. The Auditor General would plan to absorb the cost within their operating budget appropriation.

Provisions

1. Requires the Auditor General to conduct a special audit of the refugee resettlement process in this state under the federal refugee resettlement program (program).
2. Requires the special audit to review all of the following:
 - a) the number of refugees that have been settled in this state in the last 36 months pursuant to the program;
 - b) the amount of state monies that has been spent on refugee resettlement pursuant to the program; and
 - c) the amount of federal monies that this state has received pursuant to the program.
3. Requires the Auditor General, on or before December 1, 2016, to:
 - a) submit copies of the special audit to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
 - b) provide a copy of this report to the Secretary of State.
4. Repeals the provisions of the bill on October 1, 2017.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Revision

- Adds a fiscal impact statement.

House Action

FSR	2/17/16	DP	5-3-0
3 rd Read	2/24/16		36-23-1

Prepared by Senate Research

April 4, 2016

FB/rf